

Timed Writing Prompts – *Big Fish & The Odyssey*

For the timed writing response, you will write on one of the prompts listed below. Although these are the possible prompts, you will not know your prompt choice until Friday at the start of class. On Friday, I will choose the prompt randomly. Since you have the prompt choices, it is at your discretion to prepare for the timed writing. However, you may NOT prewrite the essay. All material will be checked for approval on Friday and you will be provided with the timed writing paper. On the timed writing day, you will be allowed to use your notes and the texts: *The Odyssey & Big Fish*.

- A Timed Writing is not a summary of the plot, but an analysis of both literary works.
- For the response, you must establish a claim, at least two relevant points to illustrate your claim, examples from the literature to support your points, and citations if necessary.

Minimum 2 body paragraphs (this is a guide)

- Each body paragraph should start with a topic sentence.
- Each body paragraph should have at least one example from each literary work
- You should follow each quotation with at least two sentences of analysis in which you argue how that specific quote supports the thesis.
- End each body paragraph with a concluding sentence that ties back to the overall topic.

Prompts:

1. Discuss how Edward Bloom and Odysseus experience “tests and trials”. Compare the experiences...(find similarities in both stories)
2. Discuss the role of women in *The Odyssey* and in *Big Fish*.
3. Discuss how *The Odyssey* and *Big Fish* are examples of *in medias res*. In your answer, explain how the authors establish the technique and why the author uses this technique (how it contributes to the overall meaning).
4. Establish an overall theme for both *The Odyssey* and *Big Fish*. In your written response, discuss how this theme is evident in both stories.
5. Discuss how the “heroes” in both literary works embody the values of their civilization.
6. Discuss how the father/son relationship in *The Odyssey* and in *Big Fish* contributes to an overall theme.